

**Law Enforcement Division**  
**Biweekly Field Report**  
**4/11/2016 – 4/24/2016**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Doug Hermanson located two non-resident anglers fishing on a closed portion of the Falls River in Baraga County. They had some difficulty reading the stream map on their phone so CO Hermanson showed the anglers the stream listings by county and gave further directions on the open area that can be fished.

CO Doug Hermanson made contact with anglers on the Pilgrim River in Houghton County. The anglers were fishing in an open section of the river but targeting brook trout, contrary to the brook trout restoration area initiative. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Eberly assisted Wildlife Division by responding to a complaint of a sick raccoon. The raccoon was showing signs and symptoms of distemper and rabies. The animal was collected and turned over to Wildlife Division for testing.

CO Matt Eberly and Sgt. Grant Emery worked Portage Lake for marine and fishing activities. Several marine contacts were made with operators getting their boats out for the first time this year. CO Eberly took law enforcement action for several violations including: improper registration, no fire extinguisher and no audible distress device. A few other minor fishing violations were also addressed.

CO Ethen Mapes and Adam LeClerc responded to a complaint from the Porcupine Mountain State Park. Trucks and trailers were going around a blockade on South Boundary road to gain access into the interior of the park, which still has snow. The road is closed to prevent damage from occurring to the road surface as the frost is coming out of the ground. A large group of people had gathered from all over, to go snowmobiling one last time. Both CO Mapes and CO LeClerc took law enforcement action for an assortment of violations.

CO Miller was sitting along a very good trout stream that he had received complaints from the property owner in the past for trespassing. As he was watching, two individuals approached the no trespassing sign along the stream. When they were within about five feet a tribal game warden pulled up to the individuals and said, "You may not want to go past those signs, CO Miller lives just up the road and he could be watching you." The two fisherman turned around and jumped in their truck and left.

CO Denny Gast responded to a moose vs. vehicle accident in Baraga County over the weekend. A yearling bull moose was struck by a pickup truck. Severe damage was caused to the truck with no personal injuries to the vehicle occupants. The moose was transported to a local meat processing facility. The meat that can be salvaged will be distributed to needy families.

CO Ethen Mapes spoke with students at Ontonagon and the Ewen and Trout Creek Schools about ORV safety. These classes are mandatory for all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in Ontonagon County. After talking with over 60 students, it was clear how important teaching ORV safety is. Ontonagon County is a major hub for recreational vehicles and early education promotes a safe future in the use of these vehicles.

CO Adam Leclerc and Ethen Mapes taught a hunter safety class in Wakefield. The class was taught to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class who will be attending Camp Superior this next month. After a show of hands, all but one student had already had some kind of experience with firearms. During this day of training, students were taught the proper way to handle firearms in a safe manner with special attention to muzzle direction and breaking bad habits of dangerous trigger finger placement.

CO Jared Ferguson was called to assist with an animal that was caught inside a foothold trap that was believed to be a wolf. Upon further investigation the animal was a chocolate lab.

CO Jared Ferguson was called to assist Forest Management Division on two separate occasions where the individuals were burning and allowed the fire to leave the property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson received a complaint of an ORV operating down the roadway at night. CO Ferguson was able to contact the operator and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson along with Sgt. Marc Pomroy participated in a group ORV patrol targeting wetland areas. CO Ferguson and Sgt. Pomroy were able to make numerous contacts while on the patrol and addressed four ORVS found to be tearing up a wetland area.

CO Adam LeClerc, with the help of other instructors, started the hunter safety class for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class at Wakefield-Marenisco School. The class will run through the beginning of May.

CO LeClerc was available for questions at the Ironwood School's Career Day. Over 20 different industries were on site. CO LeClerc answered questions from students regarding applying to be a conservation officer, schooling required, job functions and general fish and game questions.

While on patrol CO Adam LeClerc heard of a complaint of an ORV trespassing on private property. State troopers arrived on scene first to ensure the vehicle and drivers did not leave. CO LeClerc arrived to find a side-by-side ORV stuck on the power line in the mud and another ORV that came to 'help' without the proper licensing. After running the driver of the stuck ORV through dispatch it was revealed that the driver had an expired license. The second ORV driver claimed that he had not purchased a sticker because he normally doesn't leave his property but he purchased one for last year.

After asking if he had problems with the DNR before he said he had never received a ticket from the DNR records checks revealed otherwise. Enforcement action was taken on both ORV drivers.

CO Adam LeClerc was on patrol when he came across a vehicle in the ditch on a US Forest Service road in Gogebic County. Upon closer inspection of the vehicle, CO LeClerc noticed someone sleeping in the passenger seat. After several attempts CO LeClerc was finally able to wake the individual. Based upon lethargic body movements and slurred speech, CO LeClerc determined the person was under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. Backup was called and after questioning by the Michigan State Police trooper it was determined the individual had driven on a suspended license and got stuck when trying to turn around. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Adam LeClerc received a complaint from park rangers in the Porcupine Mountain State Park of vehicles driving around the road closed sign and driving on the snowmobile trail. CO LeClerc responded to meet the rangers and seek answers from the drivers. After a short drive around a barricade, the officers found multiple vehicles parked alongside of the road, most with snowmobiles to get 'one last ride' before the snow was gone. CO LeClerc obtained identification from all drivers past the barricade. Snowmobiles were checked for the proper registrations and trail permits. Multiple citations were issued for no trail permit, expired registration, failure to display registration as well as failure to obey a traffic control device.

CO Adam LeClerc and CO Ethan Mapes responded, along with other agencies, to a medical call of a kayaker in the Black River with a head injury in which CPR was in progress. The officers arrived on scene with an ATV to help assist in moving the patient to the ambulance. The responding agencies were able to send GPS coordinates to get the ATV close and help recover the patient. The COs assisted in the carrying of the patient, and also utilized the ATV and their patrol truck in moving the patient to awaiting personnel.

CO's Mark Leadman, Brett DeLonge and Sgt. Ryan Aho conducted a group patrol on the Menominee River targeting over limit takes of walleye and marine violations. Activity on the river was high with warm spring weather being present but walleye catches were very low. The officers noted that marine compliance was high with multiple warnings being issued.

CO Mark Leadman received a litter complaint in Marquette County with a large amount of trash spread in a wooded area. CO Leadman located the littered area and was able to locate paperwork with the suspect's information included. CO Leadman used the information to track the suspect's residence down but was unable to make contact with the suspect. The investigation is ongoing.

COs Brett DeLonge and Brian Lasanen attended a REID training event in Lower Michigan that provided multiple days of extensive interview training. Knowledge learned

during the training will help improve interview techniques and increase successful case outcomes for the department.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Mark Zitnik made contact with two ORV riders who just got on the trail from the gas station. A stop was made when the CO observed an ORV trail license missing from the lead rider. When the CO made contact with the rider he stated he had just purchased the sticker and did not want to put it on due to the ORV being very muddy, the mud was cleaned from a spot and the sticker applied. A verbal warning was given.

COs Mark Zitnik and Calvin Smith followed up on a suspicious fur registration. After interviewing the husband, it was found that the husband used his wife's tag on his marten. Law enforcement action was taken.

While off duty COs Mark Zitnik and Calvin Smith were dispatched to a wolf that was severely injured on the highway. The COs contacted Wildlife Division and met them at the scene. The wolf was determined to be struck by a logging truck and had to be euthanized. The wolf was collected by the biologist.

Corporals Shannon Van Patten & Marvin Gerlach along with COs Mike Evink, Robert Freeborn, Chris Lynch and Calvin Smith participated in a night time group patrol of Little Bay De Noc.

COs Mike Evink and Calvin Smith investigated a suspicious grass fire in the Garden Peninsula. On two separate nights a field was set on fire and the local fire department quickly extinguished the burn. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Pat Hartsig attended a youth turkey hunting seminar in Escanaba at the DNR Pocket Park. CO Hartsig spoke to over 25 youths about the laws pertaining to spring turkey hunting.

COs Pat Hartsig and Chris Lynch attended an ORV safety class at the DNR Pocket Park in Escanaba. The COs spoke about laws pertaining to ORV safety and enforcement. Thirty participants were in attendance.

CO Pat Hartsig and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon attended a Wildlife Division meeting in Seney and spoke to the group about laws and regulations as they pertain to registering and sealing fur-bearing animals.

Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon along with COs Chris Lynch, Pat Hartsig and Mark Zitnik taught hunter safety at the Escanaba DNR Office. Twenty-four students attended the class. CO Robert Freeborn was on routine patrol when he observed two ORVs wheelie across a road. All persons on the ORVs were not wearing helmets and one of the ORVs was carrying a passenger on a machine that was not designated for two people. The officers were able to get one of the ORVs to stop but the other one took off. After questioning

the operator who had stopped, the officers were able to get names of the individuals involved who turned out to be juveniles. Several citations were issued.

While on routine marine patrol, CO Robert Freeborn was checking a local hot spot for perch. After checking several boats and a few nice catches of perch, the officer came across a boat with an expired registration. When the officers asked the operator about the registration, the subject stated that he had renewed it and showed a card for proof of renewal. After looking closely at the card it was determined that the card the subject had produced was for an ORV registration and not a boat. After a quick check in the computer the registration was verified to be expired. A citation was issued.

CO Chris Lynch responded to a grass fire near his location. Upon arriving on scene the fire was spreading close to home. Fortunately, the fire department was able to extinguish the fire. The suspect said he never planned for the leaf pile he was burning to start the fire. The suspect was ticketed for failure to prevent the spread of fire.

COs Chris Lynch and Calvin Smith were on patrol when a call came out for a rollover accident. The COs were the first on scene. Upon arriving on scene the driver of the vehicle fled the scene on foot and the passenger was observed walking back home. Delta County Sheriff's Department, Michigan State Police, and Escanaba Public Safety arrived on scene shortly after. Upon going to a house near by the accident scene it was found out that several underage subjects were consuming alcohol. After a brief interview of the minors it was discovered the driver of the vehicle was possibly hiding out at a house next door to where the party was going on. The COs and a sheriff's deputy went to the house and two subjects fled the scene. After a brief search through the woods, the two subjects were located and were also underage consuming alcohol. The driver of the vehicle was not located in the area but the vehicle was impounded and the investigation continues. Five tickets were issued for minors consuming alcohol and one for furnishing alcohol to a minor.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol checking anglers when he observed three subjects near a net put out by the DNR for egg collection. CO Chris Lynch contacted the three minors and found that one had driven an ORV back into a closed area. The ORV was removed and the minor was turned over to his parents. The parents and the minor were educated on ORV laws.

COs Jon Busken, Bobby Watson and Sgt. Mike Hammill teamed up with Fisheries Technician Wayne Heinzman at the local tackle party sponsored by the Tahquamenon Area Sportsman's Club. Over 200 kids showed up for the event and had an opportunity to learn fish identification, win prizes and even learn how to cast with the popular "catch a bass" casting game. The event raises some money for the local sportsman's club but

more importantly allows kids to leave with the knowledge and gear to hit the lakes and rivers this fishing season.

CO Jon Busken was on routine patrol when he observed two individuals walking from the banks of the Black River in Mackinac County. Contact was made with the individuals who said the fishing had been good and had just finished cleaning their catch. CO Busken examined the fillets and found several brook trout fillets. The angler claimed he did not know that the fish were not in season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Panich was working an ORV patrol on Drummond Island. Over 500 jeeps showed up on the island after completing the first ever jeeps across the Mackinac Bridge. CO Panich worked the island and had no issues with any of the jeeps while there and the group was appreciative of his presence.

CO Jeff Panich was parked at a trailhead on Drummond Island when he observed two four-wheelers exit from a trail and then race side by side down a main road at speeds in excess of 50 mph. CO Panich activated his overheads on his patrol truck and was able to catch up with the two ORVs just as they pulled into their residence. The men exited the ORVs and asked why CO Panich had his lights on his truck. After giving the explanation to the two men, CO Panich also advised them of the numerous violations observed by the CO, such as failing to stop, racing on a public highway, and no ORV registrations. Upon hearing the charges, the two men agreed they shouldn't have been racing and swore they didn't see the officer behind them. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Wenzel was on patrol when a vehicle came up from behind him at a high rate of speed. The vehicle then passed CO Wenzel with oncoming cars present. The oncoming vehicle began flashing its headlights and sounding its horn as it pulled onto the shoulder to avoid a head on collision. CO Wenzel stopped the vehicle and made contact with the driver who stated that the CO was driving too slow. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Wenzel and Sgt. Mike Hammill responded to a possible grass fire in the Engadine area. The COs found that it was a controlled burn by the local fire department.

CO Kevin Postma stopped a group of ORVs riding the trails in the Kincheloe area. CO Postma noticed one of the dirt bikes to be unregistered. When questioned, the driver happily showed CO Postma his trail sticker and ORV registration, which was located on the inside of the front fender covered in mud, enforcement action was taken.

COs Bobby Watson and John Wenzel participated in a career fair at the Newberry High School. The COs made contact with many youths who were interested in becoming a conservation officer and the most appropriate path to take in order to become one.

CO Brett Gustafson attended the monthly meeting of the Straits Area Sportsman's Club. Several questions were answered regarding fish and game laws.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Steve Speigl received information of a deer that was taken without a license during the 2015 firearm deer season in Antrim County. CO Speigl found the suspect lived in Grand Rapids and called CO Justin Ulberg for assistance. CO Ulberg was able to obtain a confession about the deer taken illegally and seized the deer which had been mounted. Charges are being brought against the suspect in Antrim County.

CO Andrea Albert finally caught up with a subject hunting turkeys over bait in Antrim County. The illegal activity was discovered by CO Albert several years ago. COs over the past nine years had made numerous attempts to catch the violator in action. The second day of the spring turkey season CO Albert found the subject hunting turkeys over bait; he had driven to his hunting property with a suspended license and also had a warrant out for his arrest. CO Albert lodged the hunter for driving while suspended and on the warrant. He was also ticketed for hunting turkeys over bait.

CO Chad Baldwin has been busy responding to several burning complaints in Charlevoix County during the high fire danger period; enforcement action has been taken in many cases.

CO Andrea Erratt responded to a complaint in Charlevoix County of an individual burning trash in a burn barrel that did not have a proper top that would ensure the fire did not escape. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint from Charlevoix County Sheriff's Department reference someone burning during the high fire danger. CO Erratt checked the site and discovered a brush pile the size of a house burning. The local fire department was called in to extinguish the fire. The worker at the scene stated his boss had told him to burn off the pile. The boss was contacted and took responsibility for the fire. A ticket was issued for burning without a permit.

CO Andrea Erratt received a phone call complaint at 11:45pm regarding individuals burning a large trash pile of furniture and tires in Charlevoix County that had been removed from a foreclosed house. CO Erratt responded to the site and made contact with two subjects. The subjects claimed they did not know the illegal materials were under the wood pallets they were burning. Enforcement action was taken. After returning home, CO Erratt received another call at 2am. The same subjects had started another burn pile with tires and furniture. CO Erratt again responded to the scene. The

local fire department had extinguished the fire. Tickets were issued for burning without a permit and for the illegal disposal of solid waste.

While patrolling through the Jordan River Valley, CO Andrea Erratt encountered two ORVs operating in a prohibited area on state land. Tickets were issued.

While in the Jordan River Valley, CO Erratt came upon a subjects alongside the Jordan River. The subjects had fishing poles and fresh worms. The Jordan River is a designated trout stream and is closed to fishing until the last Saturday in April. As such, it is illegal to even possess a fishing pole alongside a closed trout stream. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt reports that she continues to follow-up on a complaint of an individual dumping approximately ten gallons of used oil in a wetland next to a trout stream. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) personnel have been requested for assistance with follow up and the cleanup effort.

While patrolling state land in Charlevoix County, CO Andrea Erratt located two ORVs operating in a prohibited area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt assisted East Jordan Police Department with locating a 16 year old subject who was missing. The subject is diagnosed with autism and schizophrenia. The subject was located after dark by CO Erratt and an East Jordan police officer. The subject was on his bicycle and was taken home to his family.

While patrolling Medusa Creek for fishing activity, CO Andrea Erratt observed a group of individuals walk past a no trespassing sign and enter Medusa Cement Company property. The subjects were located and enforcement action taken.

Cheboygan and Otsego County COs have been busy patrolling and following up on spring fish run complaints for walleye and steelhead.

COs Matt Theunick and Nick Torsky were checking a Lake Huron coastal stream (a designated trout stream) in Cheboygan County and observed a man holding a large net. Upon seeing the officers, the man threw the net to the ground. When contacted, he stated he wasn't fishing, then changed his story and said he was dipping for smelt. The net was a large mesh type, where smelt would have gone right through. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Matt Theunick and Nick Torsky received a complaint of a subject hunting wild turkey prior to the season in Cheboygan County. Contact was made with the man as he was walking out of the woods with a shotgun. Although he claimed he wasn't hunting turkeys, after back-tracking, turkey decoys and corn were found where he had been



hunting. Tickets for hunting wild turkey during the closed season and hunting turkey over bait were issued, and the shotgun seized.

CO Mark DePew arrested a subject for possession of marijuana pursuant to a traffic stop in Otsego County.

COs Eric Bottorff and Matt Theunick both responded to several fire complaints in Emmet and Cheboygan counties, investigating and issuing tickets for allowing a fire to escape and burning debris on non-burn days.

COs Nick Torsky, Mark DePew and Sgt. Greg Drogowski assisted in manning the DNR table at the Northern Michigan's Outdoor Expo in Gaylord, contacting numerous outdoor enthusiasts and answering many questions.

CO Mark DePew policed a bear-car accident in Otsego County, salvaging what was possible from the bear.

COs Eric Bottorff and Matt Theunick taught and assisted at a hunter safety class in Cheboygan.

COs Nick Torsky and Eric Bottorff followed up on a complaint where a subject was caught on a trail camera driving in a wildlife opening/planted field in the Pigeon River Country, behind a gate. The man was identified and ticketed for the offense.

CO Paul Fox along with Wildlife Division staff put on a presentation for a local Boy Scout Troop. CO Fox along with a DNR biologist discussed various wildlife and fisheries topics.

CO Paul Fox contacted two fishermen who were dipping for smelt in Nagel Creek. They were excited to show CO Fox the ten smelt they had caught; when he looked at the minnows he informed the fishermen the smelt they had caught were actually chubs and shiners.

CO Kelly Ross received a complaint in Montmorency County of a coyote in a trap which was stuck in a fence. When he arrived the coyote had already been shot and had broken the trap free from where it was initially anchored. CO Ross attempted to locate where the coyote had come from and in doing so located a spot where a homeowner was feeding deer. The homeowner was issued a citation for feeding deer in a closed county and the investigation continues reference the coyote in the trap

CO Jon Sklba was watching over a closed trout stream in Presque Isle County at night when two individuals with spears were observed looking for the vulnerable spawning

steelhead. CO Sklba stopped the individuals before they could spear a fish and issued them citations for attempting to take steelhead by an illegal method.

CO Jon Sklba assisted a MSP trooper with a flee and elude in Presque Isle County. The subject fled from the trooper when she attempted to stop the vehicle and a pursuit ensued. CO Sklba assisted the trooper in handcuffing the subject after he stopped his vehicle.

CO Jon Sklba and Sgt. Joe Molnar contacted two fishermen along Shubert's Creek which is currently closed to fishing due to a spawning closure. After initially denying that they were fishing in the river, one of the fishermen admitted to throwing his pole in the river when he saw the officers. Both fishermen admitted to fishing in the closed stream, snagging suckers and both had kept one walleye each. Citations were issued to both fishermen for possessing walleye during the closed season.

CO Bill Webster was checking fishermen on Fletcher's Pond near the dam when he asked a fisherman for his license and how he was doing. The fisherman initially stated he had approximately twelve bluegill and as they approached his bucket he said he might have a few more than he should. After the fish were counted the angler was 27 bluegill over his limit and was issued a citation for the over limit.

CO Bill Webster was patrolling the Devils River which is a closed trout stream. CO Webster watched two individuals using bow and arrows to shoot suckers. CO Webster contacted the fishermen and issued them tickets for fishing in a closed trout stream.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO William Haskin was on patrol and contacted a turkey hunter who was hunting after legal shooting hours. Contact was made and the hunter stated he didn't know that turkeys had legal hunting hours. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sean Kehoe and CO Rich Stowe conducted a question/answer session at the annual banquet for the Grand Traverse Sport Fishing Association. There were approximately 80 people in attendance.

CO Justin Vanderlinde assisted a hunter safety class being held in Benzie County. Approximately 27 students received their hunter safety certificates when the class concluded.

CO Patrick McManus, who competed on competitive swim teams in high school and college, brought a high level of expertise to water training in the academy recently. Under his direction, recruits spent an intense and productive week participating in many training scenarios preparing them for future situations while on the job.

The Tin Cup Tournament in Ludington yielded 23 fish between 9 boats. A major portion of the catch was brown trout and lake trout, with a few steelhead. Bluegill fishing is starting to pick up in Mason County lakes.

Working ORV patrols in Lake County, CO Brian Brosky found numerous subjects operating in a closed area, without titles, and contrary to U.S Forest Service regulations. A large group of ORVs operating in a closed area were stopped and several other violations were found; including riding double, failure to obtain ORV trail permits, and juveniles operating without safety certificates.

CO Kyle Publiski was checking the pier near Pentwater when he observed a stringer of bass hanging from the walkway. CO Publiski spoke with two anglers who advised they had taken the fish, but were adamant that bass season was open. CO Publiski educated them about the season dates and asked for licenses. One angler advised he hadn't purchased his license for the year yet. When CO Publiski took a closer look at the bass, he also discovered that two were undersized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski was checking on a trash dumping site in Mason County when a vehicle pulled into his location and then quickly sped away. CO Publiski ran the plate on the passenger car and SOS revealed that it belonged on a pickup truck. CO Publiski stopped the car and the driver immediately stated, "You got me." When the CO asked the driver what he meant by his statement, the driver advised CO Publiski that he knew he had the wrong plates on the car, that he did not have a license, and that there was no insurance on the car. The vehicle was towed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski was checking on a complaint of ORV trespass on private land in Mason County when he came across an ORV tearing up the hillside. CO Publiski stopped the operator for the trespass and found that he was suspended and also in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski, Mason County, was working a routine patrol when he witnessed the driver of a motor vehicle pass by him without a seatbelt on. CO Publiski turned to catch up to the vehicle and noticed the driver reaching in the back seat. CO Publiski stopped the vehicle and ascertained that driver had a warrant for his arrest for failing to appear for an Operate While Intoxicated charge. CO Publiski also discovered that the driver had placed an open beer can that he had been drinking in the back seat before he was pulled over. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Josiah Killingbeck were working an ORV patrol in Lake County when they came across a motor vehicle operating on County Road without a

license plate. They stopped the operator who advised the COs he was using his vehicle as an "ORV" and insisted that he didn't need a plate or insurance. The operator quickly pointed out he had his ORV stickers on the back of the vehicle and felt he was legal. The COs advised the driver that the vehicle was titled as a motor vehicle and being driven on a roadway, therefore he was required to comply with all the motor vehicle laws. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Lake County when he observed a vehicle drive past him at a high rate of speed without a license plate affixed and the driver was not wearing a seatbelt. CO Killingbeck stopped the vehicle and discovered the driver was under the influence of alcohol, had open intoxicants in the vehicle, had no insurance or plates for the vehicle and that the operator's license was suspended. The subject begged CO Killingbeck to "give him a break this one time" claiming he would never break the law again. After running the driver through LEIN, CO Killingbeck found that this was the subject's third drunk driving offense and that he had an outstanding warrant from Osceola County for a Probation Violation of his second OWI. The subject was arrested and lodged in the Lake County Jail.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was patrolling for turkey hunters when he observed three ORVs trespassing on a utility right-of-way. The ORVs were stopped and CO Killingbeck discovered that one had no spark arrestors and two were not titled. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and CO Kyle Publiski were on patrol when they observed a Jeep and a dune buggy operating together with no plates affixed. The COs stopped the operators and discovered that both owners had failed to transfer the titles and that the Jeep had no insurance and no plate. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse assisted the USFS, MSP and the Manistee County Sheriff's Department in an attempt to locate a missing subject who was visiting Manistee County to fish and camp along the Little Manistee River. A search party was orchestrated when the man's friend visited the campsite and could not locate him. The missing man was found deceased the following day in the river, with drowning as the likely cause.

CO Steve Converse located an angler fishing in the closed portion of the Betsie River. When CO Converse asked the man if he was aware of the closure, the angler advised that he was familiar with this portion, stating he knew it "used to be closed this time of year." When CO Converse asked him why he assumed it was open now, the angler said he couldn't find the regulations in the digest so he figured the regulations changed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse was checking a local spot in Manistee County where the local teens tend to congregate for parties. Upon arriving to that location, he found an unattended fire burning and a significant amount of trash. As CO Converse investigated the scene, a car full of teens drove around a U.S. Forest Service gate and dirt berm, and pulled into the site. CO Converse talked with the teens and ascertained that they had involvement with the impromptu gathering, and were responsible for the fire and the mess. CO Converse waited with the youths as they cleaned up the area and put out the fire. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Koscinski responded to a complaint where a homeowner was stating that she believed the neighbor had taken a deer illegally. The caller advised that a shot rang out from the residence next door and she watched a deer tumble down a hill. CO Koscinski responded and found a dead deer lying in the woods behind the suspect residence. CO Koscinski was able to obtain a confession from the homeowner who advised that he thought the deer was a bobcat and had shot at it. She advised she was trying to shoot what she believed was a bobcat to prevent it from getting in to her poultry barn as she had recently lost some chickens. CO Koscinski advised her that she did not kill a bobcat and had instead killed a full grown whitetail doe. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller of Osceola County responded to a fire in Mecosta County. The person living there stated he was planning to burn some trash in a burn barrel. However, he was concerned about the long grass and weeds around the burn barrel catching fire and spreading. So, he lit the grass on fire. The fire quickly spread uncontrollably burning two acres and two barns. The fire department advised that they have responded to this house for three years in a row on grass fires. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County was on marine patrol when he observed a small watercraft with no registration occupied by two anglers. CO Wells made contact with the vessel and noticed that no PFDs were aboard the vessel. The subjects were both fishing and one of the anglers had not obtained a current fishing license. As CO Wells began to count the number of pan fish in the live well, he discovered an 11 inch largemouth bass which was undersize and out of season. The subject that did not have a license and admitted to catching and keeping the bass.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County received a call on his day off from an informant fishing at Hesperia dam. The informant advised CO Wells that he observed two subjects chase a steelhead up a feeder creek next to the dam and make use of a hand net to catch the fish and placed it on a stringer. CO Wells responded to the area and made contact with several witnesses to the act. They identified the two subjects whom were still fishing at the dam. CO Wells contacted the anglers and admissions were obtained

that one of the subjects chased the fish up the creek for the other subject to net and catch the fish. The first subject then struck the fish in the head to dispatch it and put it on his stringer. Citations were issued to both subjects for the unlawful method, and the fish was seized and donated.

CO Angela Greenway and CO Brian Lebel of Mecosta County attempted to stop an ORV operating in a closed area and on a utility right of way with no helmet. Upon activating the emergency lights on the patrol vehicle the subject turned off of the powerline and took off at a high rate of speed. The COs were able to follow the operator's path through a wooded area. The subject pulled into a residence where the COs had dealt with subjects the previous weekend on ORV issues. Contact was made with the evasive rider and charged with failing to stop and other ORV violations.

CO Brian Lebel of Mecosta County was working complaint of subjects fishing in a closed trout stream. CO Lebel was able to locate two anglers fishing in a closed stream. Upon making contact, it was also determined that neither angler had purchased a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Michael Bomay and CO Brian Lebel of Mecosta County pulled into an access site on the Muskegon River and noticed two subjects fishing who also clearly noticed the COs as well. One subject set his fishing rod down and walked behind a large bridge abutment. The COs walked around to greet the angler on the other side of the abutment and found that he and his fishing partner had failed to buy fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ethan Gainforth and CO Troy Mueller of Osceola County were patrolling a problem area of ORVs causing erosion in the Evart state land area when they saw an individual riding an ORV without a helmet. The operator did not have a current ORV license and was operating in a prohibited area. The rider was educated on where he could operate his ORV and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ethan Gainforth of Osceola County was on patrol and witnessed a side-by-side, dirt bike, and an ORV pull out onto state highway 61 and drive down the east bound lane at a high rate of speed. CO Gainforth conducted a traffic stop on the group and found that none of the operators had ORV licenses on their ORVs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County was conducting a taxidermy inspection when he located a finished shoulder mount of a 9-point antlered deer that was taken in 2012. The taxidermist advised that he had made several calls to the deer owner with no response back. Inspection of the kill tag on the deer revealed that it was validated for 11/22/12. A

check of the tag owner through licensing revealed that the kill tag was purchased after legal hunting hours on 11/22/12. CO Wells located the tag owner and inquired as to the deer. The tag owner admitted that he had shot the deer at a farm he works at. He explained that he did not intend to hunt that year but got a last minute chance to go hunting. The tag owner advised that he shot the deer in the afternoon of 11/22/12 and that he then realized he had forgotten to obtain his license. He advised he purchased the license after he had taken the deer. The finished mount was seized as evidence. Enforcement action was taken against the subject.

CO Mike Wells was conducting a taxidermy inspection and located a 6-point set of antlers that was tagged with a 2015 combination restricted deer license. Further check of the paperwork at the taxidermist revealed that the subject listed as the owner of the deer was not the same subject that owned the kill tag with the antlers. A license check of the indicated owner of the deer revealed that he had not purchased deer licenses in 2015. CO Wells made contact with the indicated owner of the deer and an admission was received that this subject had shot two antlered deer in 2015 and used his brother's kill tags on them. Appropriate law enforcement action was taken against the subject that harvested both deer.

## **DISTRICT 5**

COs Josh Wright and Ethan Gainforth spoke to a hunter safety class at the Harrison Sportsmen Club. There were 25 kids in attendance. They spoke to the class about hunting regulations as well as the many safety aspects of the sport.

COs Phil Hudson, Josh Wright and Steve Lockwood patrolled the Rifle River near Omer for compliance with fishing regulations. Several subjects were located fishing near an access to the river. COs Wright and Lockwood observed the subjects from the opposite side of the river as CO Hudson stayed near the anglers' vehicle. As they packed up to leave, two of the anglers walked toward their vehicle as the other two anglers walked into a wooded area. A short time later the two anglers emerged from the wooded area and walked towards their vehicle. It was apparent that one of the subjects had something concealed in his hooded sweatshirt. COs Wright and Lockwood conveyed the observations to CO Hudson. CO Hudson made contact with the anglers at their vehicle and asked the one subject what he had in his sweatshirt. At that time the subject retrieved a walleye. A citation was issued for taking a walleye during the closed season.

CO Steve Lockwood patrolled a dead end road in Gladwin County checking for activity at hunting camps prior to the upcoming turkey season. While in the area, CO Lockwood heard an ORV a short distance away. A short time later the ORV emerged from a wooded area with two subjects on it. CO Lockwood observed an uncased firearm on the front of the ORV. CO Lockwood made contact with subjects and checked the firearm which was loaded. The subjects stated that the gun is always on the ORV for

safety. CO Lockwood discussed the safety concern with the subjects and issued a citation for the violation.

CO John Huspen responded to a complaint of subjects burning old building materials. CO Huspen arrived and contacted the subject standing near the fire. CO Huspen determined he was burning shingles, old cabinets, carpet, insulation and at least one stainless steel sink. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben McAteer was dispatched to three separate fires, two in Crawford County and one in Roscommon County. The cause of all three fires was determined to be homeowners burning yard debris without burn permits on days of high fire danger. In all three circumstances, the fire spread beyond the homeowner's control due to leaving the fire unsupervised during high wind conditions. Enforcement action was taken on each.

CO Mike Hearn responded to a littering complaint on state land in Kalkaska County. Upon locating the dump site, CO Hearn was able to locate a store receipt for a sporting goods store in Traverse City. With the assistance of the store's loss prevention team, CO Hearn was able to trace the receipt to a recent customer. A 40 year old Mancelona man was located and interviewed. He admitted to being in the area where the trash was dumped, but denied any knowledge of the dumping. Evidence indicated he had dumped the trash and charges are being sought through the local prosecutor's office.

While patrolling a pipeline for ORV activity in Kalkaska County, CO Mike Hearn observed a pickup truck travelling towards him at a high rate of speed. The truck was going so fast that it was leaving the ground as it hit the bumps along the pipeline. Upon seeing CO Hearn, the driver abruptly turned off the pipeline and onto a two track. At that time, CO Hearn saw that the truck was carrying passengers in the bed of the pickup. A traffic stop was made for the careless operation. It was determined that the minor driver was operating with alcohol and marijuana in his system. Open cans of alcohol were also found in the vehicle. The driver was arrested without incident.

CO Sam Schluckbier responded to a small brush fire that ignited in Kalkaska County. The homeowner was cleaning ashes out of his wood burner and thought they were cooled down enough to dump into the woods. Local firefighters responded to assist and extinguish the fire. The incident is still under investigation.

CO Craig Neal responded to a complaint of a subject shooting at sand-hill cranes with a rifle from his vehicle. With help from other COs and Missaukee County Sheriff's Department, CO Neal was able to locate the vehicle and interview the suspect. The suspect confessed to shooting at the sand-hill cranes. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Bowen responded to a Roscommon County complaint of fishermen fishing a closed portion of Backus Creek. CO Bowen found several people fishing the closed



stream. The fishermen explained they thought the river was open for spearing and had several fish. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chuck McPherson and Craig Neal were patrolling the spawning closure on the Cut River in Roscommon County and found a subject in waders bow fishing the closed river. COs contacted the subject and found the subject was also fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Casey Pullum and Bobbi Lively conducted a fishing patrol in kayaks along a portion of the Au Sable River in Oscoda County. This section of river is a designated trout stream and closed to fishing this time of year. The conservation officers encountered two individuals fishing the closed area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Olsen was patrolling Ogemaw County when he noticed a large group of ORVs coming from a railroad right-of-way. He stopped most of the group to educate them on where they could operate; however, one ORV continued down the roadway. When CO Olsen finally caught up with the operator, he conducted a traffic stop. While talking with the driver, he smelled a strong odor of intoxicants and conducted field sobriety tests. The subject was given a preliminary breath test which also indicated he was operating while intoxicated. He was arrested and lodged in the Ogemaw County Jail.

While patrolling Ogemaw County for fishing activity, CO Kyle Bader saw a large plume of black smoke. He determined that the source of the smoke was a barn that was engulfed in flames. Two men were watching the fire with rakes and pitch forks. CO Bader contacted the landowner who said he woke up to find the barn on fire. He was "OK with it though, because he wanted to burn it down anyway, but didn't want to get in trouble." CO Bader was suspicious after seeing the Bic grill lighter in his pocket, bottle of lighter fluid nearby, the fact that all the brush was neatly raked away from the barn and the tractor with a blade standing by. CO Bader interviewed the other subject there who admitted that the landowner started the barn on fire. When confronted with this, the landowner confessed to burning the barn. The local fire department put the fire out and enforcement action was taken.

CO Warren MacNeill investigated a wildfire near the airport in Iosco County. Although most of the fire origin was disturbed while extinguishing the fire, CO MacNeill was able to locate some evidence and foot tracks leading toward a mobile home park. After interviewing a number of residents in the park, he obtained confessions from two juvenile males who lit the fire. They were lighting dry grass on fire while "playing with a lighter." Enforcement action is being sought.

CO Casey Pullum assisted the Oscoda County Sheriff's Department on an investigation of a fatal ORV crash. The crash occurred on a few miles of two-tracks along the Au Sable River corridor.

CO Josh Russell was patrolling Foote Dam for fishing activity when he noticed an angler dip the tip of his rod in the water and jerk the rod to the side. The angler did this several more times and hooked a fish. After the fish got off the hook the angler put a split shot just above the treble hook and tried again, this time successfully snagging a fish. When CO Russell approached the subject, he cut his fishing line. Shortly into the contact, the angler realized CO Russell had been watching him the entire time. He admitted to snagging fish and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Russell attended a walleye club banquet in the Tawas area. He answered numerous hunting and fishing questions, as well as questions about how to become a conservation officer. CO Russell spoke to over 60 individuals at the event.

Sergeant Brandon Kieft was patrolling for fishing activity when he noticed a vehicle parked along Smith Creek in Iosco County. This area is a designated trout stream that is closed to fishing. Sgt. Kieft walked the creek bank and eventually made contact with a male angler. Further investigation determined that that subject had two prior violations for snagging and taking fish during the closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 6**

On a recent patrol in Huron County, COs Bob Hobkirk and Kyle Bucholtz located an illegal burn. A local resident was attempting to burn processed lumber and insulation from a demolished trailer. The fire was extinguished and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, COs Bob Hobkirk and Kyle Bucholtz observed a subject operating an ORV without a helmet. Upon further investigation it was revealed the subject's driver's license was revoked. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Huron County, CO Kyle Bucholtz located an ORV being operated by a minor. The minor was unsupervised, without a helmet, and did not have a valid ORV registration attached. CO Bucholtz contacted the minor's parents and had the minor safely transported home. Enforcement action was taken against the parents for the safety violations.

During a late night patrol in Tuscola County, CO Jason A. Smith found a subject sucker spearing in the middle of the night. The subject had previously been present on separate occasions when his buddies had been caught illegally netting planted trout and spearing steelhead. The subject had previously been able to avoid involvement during the earlier encounters. However, this time he was in possession of an illegally speared Northern Pike. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea made contact in Sanilac County with two turkey hunters as they were returning to their truck with a turkey. As it turned out, the turkey had not been tagged. Upon checking the unused tag, CO Rhodea discovered the hunter's tag was not valid for the season he was hunting in. The turkey was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea was patrolling in northern Sanilac County when he observed an ORV sitting in the middle of the road with the operator trying to start the machine. Upon making contact with the operator, it was discovered he was a juvenile who had gone out turkey hunting by himself several miles from his house. CO Rhodea ensured safe transport back to his residence where contact was made with parents and a citation was issued for the safety violation.

CO Mark Siemen was contacted by the Sanilac County Sheriff's Office and Port Sanilac Fire Department to respond to a residence in Sanilac Township to assist with an illegal burn. CO Siemen arrived on scene and observed that a subject had been burning multiple tires, tarps and trash in his yard. While burning these items, the subject's vehicle had also caught on fire due to the fire burning out of control. The fire was extinguished by the fire department and they advised that the subject had earlier called to get a permit to burn a brush pile. While at the scene, officers located the subject in his residence and made contact with him. The subject was highly intoxicated and was not being cooperative with officers. Enforcement action was taken by CO Siemen for burning the tires and tarps and the subject was arrested by deputies for violating his probation.

COs Mark Siemen and Jason Smith worked a joint marine patrol for a local two-day fishing tournament that took place out of the Lexington State Harbor in Sanilac County. Multiple contacts were made with fishermen and multiple warnings were given by the COs.

CO Mark Siemen made contact with four subjects on ORVs in the village of Deckerville. Three of the subjects did not have ORV registrations on their machines. CO Siemen issued warnings and followed the subjects to the store where the subjects purchased ORV permits.

While on patrol, CO Will Brickel was stationary in a driveway in Bay County when an ORV drove past him exceeding 60 mph. Neither the driver nor the four year old child on his lap were wearing helmets. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol of the Saginaw River System, COs Quincy Gowenlock and Will Brickel made many contacts due to the nice weather. Several citations were given for various marine and fishing violations during the patrol.

During a night patrol, CO Mike Haas observed two anglers using compound bows on a boat on a lake with illuminated spotlights. CO Haas located trucks parked at a rustic boat launch and waited for the anglers to return to shore. CO Haas contacted the anglers as they returned to their trucks and asked to see their fishing licenses. One angler presented his license while the other stated he was not fishing and that both bows in the boat belonged to the licensed fisherman. After CO Haas informed the anglers that he had watched them out on the lake for some time, the unlicensed angler admitted to bow fishing. Enforcement action was taken.

While CO Mike Haas was checking anglers on the Chippewa River, a boat had returned to the boat launch. CO Haas asked the anglers onboard why there was no registration or MC numbers on the watercraft. The owner of the boat stated that they were simply testing the gas motor. CO Haas then informed them that he had watched them fish and noted that the boat was also equipped with a trolling motor. The owner of the boat was reminded that a boat utilizing a motor was required to be registered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Haas responded to a fire in western Isabella County. A landowner had been burning a pile of scrap wood which then started a nearby pile of stacked pine logs on fire. The fire was getting closer to the owners sawmill when the local fire department arrived and suppressed the fire. The landowner was burning without a permit and failed to prevent the spread of fire. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers in the Lake Isabella area of Isabella County, CO Mike Haas was contacted by Isabella dispatch and asked to assist at a nearby marsh fire. CO Haas arrived shortly after local firefighters had begun to fight the fire. CO Haas made his way to the point of the fire and attempted to help prevent further spread of the flames. CO Haas located two nearby deer blinds and found buckets inside. A landowner and CO Haas were able to collect water from a stream and help suppress the fire. Approximately eight acres were burned and the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

While on patrol in Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson was first on-scene to a roll-over crash that occurred during one of the freezing rain storms. CO Robinson assisted the driver of the truck, who had lacerations on her head and hands and gathered information for the incoming deputies.

While patrolling the east side of Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson was in the area where a suspect had fled the scene of an accident. The suspect vehicle passed CO Robinson going the opposite way. While the CO got his patrol truck turned around, a Saginaw Chippewa officer also saw the vehicle and was able to affect a traffic stop. CO

Robinson assisted at the scene. The subject was placed under arrest and the vehicle was searched when several items of contraband were discovered.

While on patrol, COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas checked a pair of anglers at a popular fishing hole. One of the subjects admitted to not having a fishing license. While talking to the COs, the subject mentioned he had been fishing in other areas around the state recently, but had not purchased his license for 2016 yet. An RSS check revealed that the subject had not purchased a fishing license since 2008. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson observed two individuals fishing on a local lake. After watching the anglers for some time, they started to head in to the boat launch. CO Robinson checked the boat and anglers for safety equipment, fish, and licenses. One of the subjects said that he forgot to buy his license for the year. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in the western part of Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson received word from an off duty conservation officer that he noticed some black smoke in the area where he was traveling. CO Robinson located the residence and made contact with the homeowner. After interviews, it became apparent that the subject was burning several items that should not have been burned including pieces of household furniture. Enforcement action was taken for illegal disposal of solid waste.

CO Jay Person was called to the scene of a personal injury (PI) ORV accident. Upon arrival, CO Person found a grandmother had been transporting her 7 year old granddaughter and 2 year old grandson on the ORV when she struck a cable that was stretched across the road. The 2 year old was on the front of the machine, and the 7 year old was on the back with the grandmother operating. The two year old child sustained minimal injuries due to being in a car seat. The car seat allowed the cable to pass over the young boy leaving him with some scratches. The two year old was transported to the hospital as a precaution. Enforcement action was taken with the grandmother.

CO Jay Person responded to a call that there was a dead bald eagle on the side of US-10. Upon arrival, a mature eagle was located in the median of the highway. It appeared to be hit by a vehicle but no report was ever filed. CO Person secured the banded eagle and turned it over to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The bird will be taken to the lab to determine the cause of death.

CO Joel Lundberg worked the Tittabawassee River during the walleye season closure. CO Lundberg made many contacts for anglers violating the closed season, gear restrictions, litter and fishing without licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joel Lundberg worked the opening day of the 2016 Turkey Season. CO Lundberg field checked 9 successful hunters and even took pictures for 2 groups of successful hunters so that all the successful hunters could be included in the photo. A father and son had both filled their turkey licenses opening morning and a husband and wife were also both successful. It was a very good opener and a great success rate among hunters checked.

While on patrol on the Tittabawassee River in Saginaw County, COs Joel Lundberg and Jill Berry stopped two subjects who were fishing along the river. When asked for their fishing licenses one subject stated he did not have one. The other subject stated he was only 16 years old. The part of the Tittabawassee River where the subjects were fishing has gear restrictions and both subjects were fishing with lures. Enforcement action was taken.

While on routine patrol, CO Jill Berry stopped in at the Saginaw Rivermouth state launch checking subjects coming in from fishing. While at the launch, the CO made contact with a number of anglers that had their fishing licenses but failed to have any PFDs in their boats. Tickets were issued.

COs Quincy Gowenlock and Will Brickel conducted a patrol on the Saginaw River. As the COs approached the Zilwaukee boat launch, they noticed several subjects fishing from shore. CO Gowenlock dropped CO Brickel off on shore a couple hundred yards up from the anglers and he walked in to make contact as CO Gowenlock docked the boat. Upon contacting a couple, the male angler had a valid fishing license but the female angler did not. When asked, the female stated she wasn't fishing. The COs told her that they had been watching her with binoculars casting and reeling. Again she denied fishing. Once it was apparent that she was going to receive a citation for fishing without a license, she finally admitted to fishing and apologized. The COs issued several other citations at the same location for fishing without a license.

COs Quincy Gowenlock and Will Brickel received a call from Sgt. Ron Kimmerly regarding two anglers casting lures for walleye during the spawning closer in the Shiawassee Flats. The COs headed to the St. Charles Field Office to get the jet boat while Sgt. Kimmerly continued to watch the subjects. Every time another boat went by the two anglers set their rods down in the bottom of their boat. When the COs launched the patrol boat, Sgt. Kimmerly informed them that the subjects appeared to get nervous due to the boat traffic and were now legally fishing the bottom with worms. Once contact was made, both subjects denied using lures. CO Brickel picked up one of the poles which still had an illegal artificial lure attached and asked who had been using it. One subject admitted to using the lure once but it was pulling his pole strangely so he began to use his other pole with a hook and worm. The COs asked the subject to turn around and look at the dike. When they did, they saw Sgt. Kimmerly parked in his truck and

were told that he had been watching them for at least an hour. The subjects finally admitted to use of lures during the spawning closure and were cited for their violations.

While patrolling the Shiawassee River near the game area, Sgt. Ron Kimmerly made numerous contacts with anglers and boaters. Sgt. Kimmerly saw one boat in the middle of the river with a towel hanging over the starboard side registration. Sgt. Kimmerly then drove to the other side of the river, and when he got there the same towel was on the other side covering the registration. Contact was made and the registration was in fact expired. The boater told Sgt. Kimmerly that it must have been just a coincidence that a towel was hiding the expired registration on both sides of the boat. A ticket was issued.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Andy Bauer conducted a patrol on Lake Michigan and issued citations to two subjects with unregistered boats and one subject fishing without a license. In addition, many other fishermen were contacted that were in compliance with the law.

CO Tyler Cole checked a small lake in Cass County and located two subjects fishing. Both subjects did not have fishing licenses. A warrant check revealed that one of the subjects had three warrants for his arrest. Citations were issued for the fishing violations and the subject with the warrants was lodged at the Cass County Jail.

CO Matt Page had investigated a complaint of a subject hunting turkeys with the aid of bait. CO Page located the bait and worked the location on numerous days. CO Steve Mooney was called to assist and began surveillance at the baited location before daylight one morning. A subject showed up and began turkey calling a short distance from the bait. After observing the subject for a while, the subject became impatient and started to leave. CO Mooney made contact and the subject admitted to placing the spin feeder and that he did not have a turkey hunting license. In addition, the subject admitted to shooting a turkey in 2014 without a license, which CO Page already knew about. Lastly, the subject is prohibited from possessing a firearm, due to prior felony convictions. CO Mooney seized the firearm, cited the subject for hunting with the aid of bait and hunting turkeys without a license, and will be seeking a warrant for felon in possession of a firearm. A warrant is also being requested for the 2014 turkey that was taken without a license.

COs Brad Brewer and Jeff Robinette patrolled the St. Joseph River system for fishing activity and subsequently located a subject fishing without a license to fish. CO Robinette cited the subject for the violation.

CO Matt Page checked an inland lake in Van Buren County and checked a number of fishermen fishing from shore. During the checks, CO Page located three subjects fishing without licenses. CO Page issued them citations for the violations.

CO Brad Brewer checked shore fishermen along the St. Joseph River and located two subjects fishing without licenses during his patrol. The subjects were cited for fishing without fishing licenses.

CO Steve Mooney was on patrol when he observed two turkey hunters walking across a field. CO Mooney observed that as soon as the subjects saw his truck, they immediately walked into the woods nearby. CO Mooney located the subject's vehicle and waited for them to return. After waiting approximately five minutes, the subjects returned to the vehicle and CO Mooney made contact. The subjects were found to have been turkey hunting without licenses and were using shotgun shells with shot that was too large according to the law. The subjects were cited for both violations.

CO Andy Bauer checked an inland lake in Berrien County and checked a number of fishermen. During the patrol, CO Bauer located three subjects that were fishing without licenses. All three subjects were cited for the violations.

COs Robert Crisp and Chuck Towns worked a joint patrol focusing on illegal off-road activity and angling in the Allegan State Game Area. The COs contacted persons operating unlicensed ORVs, not wearing helmets, and riding double when the ORV was not equipped properly. COs Crisp and Towns made contact with three people fishing without licenses. Enforcement action was taken and numerous warnings were also given.

COs Robert Crisp and Richard Cardenas worked a problem area in the Barry State Game Area where ORVs, mud trucks and jeeps operate in closed areas and where several state gates have been torn down or damaged. The COs contacted and cited two subjects for operating in closed areas.

CO Robert Crisp responded to a complaint of an intoxicated suicidal subject who had overdosed on prescription medication. When CO Crisp arrived on scene he located the subject passed out on the couch surrounded by empty pill containers and two large pit bulls. CO Crisp was able to wake the subject up who then advised that she was going to "turn the dogs loose" on him. After some brief tension, CO Crisp was able to talk the subject into putting the animals in a kennel and meet with EMS outside. The subject was taken by EMS to the hospital for treatment and an evaluation.

CO Robert Crisp responded to the YMCA camp in Barry County reference a complaint that a person had fallen from a tree and was seriously injured. CO Crisp was first on scene and provided first aid until other first responders arrived on scene. He also assisted EMS in transporting the subject from the woods.



CO Richard Cardenas worked illegal off-roading activity in the Yankee Springs and Barry State Game areas utilizing both overt and covert patrol strategies. Several citations were issued to persons operating illegally in the area.

CO Paul Higashi cited an angler for illegal possession of two largemouth bass. The angler had also caught several rock bass. The angler attempted to get out of the situation by stating he thought the two largemouth bass were rock bass. CO Higashi pointed out the clear differences for the angler's future reference.

CO Chuck Towns is investigating an incident involving persons tearing down a newly constructed sign placed on the Allegan State Game area commemorating the State's first Wild Turkey planting. Several gates have also been forcibly removed. Information is being sought from the public to assist in finding the persons responsible for the destruction.

While patrolling for illegal ORV activity CO Greg Patten stopped four ORVs illegally operating off designated trails on state land. Three subjects were cited for no spark arresters, which is a fire danger and all four were warned for not being on the designated trail.

CO Greg Patten responded to an ORV personal injury accident on the Cedar Creek trails in Muskegon County. A woman struck a stump and flipped the ORV on top of herself. Fire and ambulance brought her out and she was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

While checking anglers along Muskegon Lake, CO Greg Patten came across a subject without a fishing license. A LEIN check revealed a misdemeanor FTA warrant for assault, a misdemeanor FTA warrant for traffic, and a felony warrant for dangerous drugs. The suspect was lodged in the Muskegon County Jail and warned for fishing without a license.

CO BJ Goulette received a tip from Station 20 of a turkey that was harvested without a license. The hunter posted a picture of himself with the turkey on social media. Records revealed that he did not have a valid turkey license. The suspect admitted that he realized he had the wrong license before he went hunting, but decided to go anyway and shot the bird the second time out. He gave a written confession and was cited for taking a turkey without a valid license.

COs BJ Goulette and Ivan Perez received a tip from Station 20 of a successful hunter that posted a picture of himself on social media with a harvested turkey. Records revealed that he did not have a 2016 turkey license. The subject was not home when the COs first stopped in to see him, but his mother was more than happy to show them the turkey in the garage that had his father's kill tag on it. The interview with the suspect

later revealed that the dad wasn't going to get a chance to get out and hunt for the first hunt so he was just going to "swap" tags with his 21 year old son and have him get a late season tag for dad to use. The subject confessed to swapping tags and taking the turkey without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers at Dunton Park in Holland, CO Ivan Perez and CO BJ Goulette witnessed a boat coming into the boat launch that was violating the slow-no-wake zone. CO Perez inspected the vessel and found that the subjects did not have enough life jackets on board. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Ulberg received a complaint of a subject taking an over limit of pan fish on a lake in Kent County. The complainant stated that the subject fished nearly every day and sometimes multiple times a day. CO Ulberg responded to the lake and was able to watch the suspect fish. CO Ulberg met with the subject at his residence after he finished fishing. CO Ulberg discovered that the angler was a few fish over his daily limit. CO Ulberg then questioned the angler about how many fish he had in his possession. CO Ulberg checked the subject's freezer and discovered that the angler was approximately 400 fish over his possession limit. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking the Rouge River in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg received a tip that an angler was attempting to snag steelhead at a nearby location. CO Ulberg responded to the area and was able to observe the subject while he fished. CO Ulberg watched the subject as he walked the shoreline looking for steelhead. The subject would then cast out a bare hook and attempt to snag the fish. CO Ulberg contacted the subject and the angler confessed to trying to snag fish. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Ulberg assisted District 4, CO Stephen Speigl, with the investigation of a deer that was shot during the 2015 deer season. The subject in question had purchased his deer license in the afternoon on opening day of the firearm deer season. Evidence located on a social media website indicated that the whitetail deer was shot sometime in the morning. CO Ulberg was able to make contact with the hunter and obtained a confession that the deer was shot first and then the hunter purchased his deer license. A report was forwarded to CO Speigl and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ivan Perez and Sgt. Jeff Rabbers responded to a boating accident along the north arm of Muskegon Lake Pier. Contact was made with the operator who had crashed into the break wall the previous night while trolling for walleye. The subject indicated that he was landing a walleye and had gotten his lines tangled. While untangling his lines, and to avoid boat traffic, he had used his GPS to navigate away from the pier and out into Lake Michigan. The subject was then unaware that he had made a large circle and was headed back to shore at a high rate of speed. The subject attempted to navigate his way back to shore in the dark using only his GPS and didn't recognize where he was

and crashed into the break wall. While checking the subject's fish, CO Perez determined that the subject did not have a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Grand Haven State Park, CO Ivan Perez made contact with a group of beach goers who were loading their vehicle. A large amount of empty alcohol bottles were dropped from the cooler they had brought into the park. CO Perez discussed the regulations with the subjects about no alcohol is allowed within the park. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Bass River Recreation Area, CO Ivan Perez made contact with two juveniles that were in possession of marijuana and alcohol. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ivan Perez responded to a complaint from a subject fishing the Grand River near the Bass River Recreation Area in Ottawa County. The subject complained that another boater had run over his fishing lines and was operating carelessly. Contact was made with the careless boater as he came to the access site and it was identified that the subject was intoxicated. Field sobriety tests and a breath test revealed that the operator was intoxicated. The subject was lodged in the Ottawa County jail for operating a watercraft while intoxicated.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Daniel Prince attended a hunter's safety class and field day on Saturday, April 16th and Sunday April 17th at the Livingston Conservation and Sports Association in Brighton. CO Prince talked to 54 students and parents about the duties of a conservation officer, including hunting laws, firearm safety, and ethical hunting.

COs Peter Purdy and Mike Drexler checked anglers at Island Lake Recreation Area Spring Mill Pond. One angler was in violation of the artificial lure only gear restriction. He was fishing with worms and minnows. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Peter Purdy and Mike Drexler checked anglers at the Island Lake Recreation Area Spring Mill Pond. One angler was waist deep in the water wearing waders and a fly vest. When asked for a fishing license he advised he neglected to purchase one. A retail sales system check revealed he hadn't purchased a license since 2014. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Peter Purdy and Justin Muehlhauser checked anglers at Milliken State Park along the river walk. Two anglers were contacted who were fishing without licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Drexler and Peter Purdy were checking anglers along the Huron River in Ypsilanti when they contacted two anglers fishing without a license. One angler was

from out of state and stated he just didn't have time to purchase a fishing license. The COs commented that the subjects probably should have purchased licenses when they were buying bait. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Drexler and Peter Purdy were patrolling the Huron River where they made contact with a group of anglers with several violations. The anglers were found to be in possession of walleye during the closed season, which were also undersized. When CO Drexler asked if anyone had previous contact with the DNR, one of the anglers who kept two of the walleye stated he had recently received a ticket. CO Drexler soon recognized the angler as a subject who he issued a ticket for fishing without a license only two weeks prior. One of the anglers in the group also had ten outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler was patrolling the Huron River in Ypsilanti when he contacted a group with a few fishing violations. After issuing verbal warnings and leaving the group, CO Drexler was contacted by anglers across the river who stated while the CO was checking the group, another angler from their group down river saw the CO, threw his fishing pole in the weeds, and took off running. CO Drexler found the pole and six undersized and out of season walleye hidden on shore. CO Drexler returned to the group and had them call the suspect back to his location. The suspect eventually came back and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler was traveling on I-94 in Washtenaw County when a vehicle passed him traveling at a high rate of speed. CO Drexler paced the vehicle for over a mile and a traffic stop was conducted for operating at 100 mph in a 70 mph zone. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben responded to a complaint from Washtenaw County Metro Dispatch of ORVs operating on the roadway near the intersection of Waterloo and Island Lake Roads. Upon arriving on scene he heard ORVs operating on private property near the intersection. CO Hartleben made contact with the property owner and discussed ORV laws and was assured the ORVs would not leave the property. While talking with the property owner, CO Hartleben observed another ORV leave a neighboring farm and travel westbound on Waterloo Road. CO Hartleben pursued the ORV and initiated a traffic stop. In addition to operating on a public roadway, the ORV was not registered and the operator was not wearing a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich was on his way home from patrolling the Huron River when he noticed two ORVs in the oncoming lane on a state highway. CO Monnich initiated a traffic stop on the ORVs. Upon contact, CO Monnich noticed both ORVs did not have proper registration and only one of the three riders was wearing a helmet. The riders told CO Monnich they were just out on a joy ride. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich received an anonymous complaint and a video of a snowmobile being driven across the open water on a local lake. CO Monnich went to the area of the

complaint and noticed snowmobile tracks going off a seawall and in to the water across a small bay and into a neighboring yard. CO Monnich noticed the tracks went into a garage in the neighborhood. After tracking down the owner of the property, the snowmobile seen in the video was located in the garage. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster attended a hunter's safety class put on by the Grass Lake Sportsman's Club in Jackson County. Approximately 30 students were in attendance.

CO Shane Webster encountered a subject fishing who stated he was just practicing catch and release and therefore didn't believe he needed a license. CO Webster informed the subject of the actual laws. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Larn Strawn took on a student ride along in support of the St. Johns High School senior job shadow requirement. CO Strawn exposed his passenger to the daily routine and operations while on patrol as well as an inventory and familiarization of the patrol truck, issued firearms and patrol equipment.

While checking anglers at the Brenke fish ladder in Lansing, CO Matt Neterer observed an angler walking away from his fishing pole. CO Neterer made contact with the subject who could not produce a fishing license or driver's license. The subject told CO Neterer that he didn't need a fishing license because he was only 17 years old. CO Neterer took down his name and date of birth and discovered that the subject's 18th birthday was in less than a month. Enforcement action was taken.

While on an ORV patrol in the city of Lansing, CO Neterer encountered a subject operating an ORV on a public roadway. The subject told CO Neterer that he had just changed his oil and was taking his dirt bike out for a test drive. After running the driver's information it was discovered that he was operating on a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a late night snagging patrol in Lansing, CO Matt Neterer observed a vehicle driving recklessly through a neighborhood. CO Neterer conducted a traffic stop and discovered that the driver was operating without a driver's license and three of the six passengers had outstanding warrants. CO Neterer was assisted by the Lansing Police Department who took the subjects into custody and lodged them on the warrants.

CO Chris Maher conducted a job shadow with two Williamston High School students. CO Maher explained the many different duties of a Conservation Officer and exposed them to the variety of equipment used to accomplish everyday tasks.

While on patrol for turkey hunters, CO Chris Maher noticed several bags of trash and construction debris dumped in Waterloo Recreation Area. CO Maher with the help of CO Shane Webster, looked through the bags of trash in order to find suspect information. After several interviews, a confession was obtained. Enforcement action was taken and the suspect was directed to pick up the remaining trash.

While conducting a fishing patrol at Heritage Park in Shiawassee County, CO Jason King came in contact with two subjects shore fishing on the Shiawassee River. CO King discovered that the two subjects had not purchased valid 2016 fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason King received a call from Shiawassee County dispatch regarding a complaint from a subject that stated she discovered a bullet hole on the exterior of her residence and was unaware of the timeframe that it might have occurred. After making contact with the home owner and investigating the scene, CO King discovered an entrance and exit hole that appeared to be from a .22 caliber bullet. While examining the scene, CO King noticed that there was no debris, bullet fragments, projectile, or any further damage inside the residence. A gun safe was located in the room. The home owner opened the locked gun safe and CO King discovered a loaded .22 caliber long rifle. CO King determined that a firearm was discharged from inside the residence. The parents at the residence were unaware of a firearm being accidentally discharged within the home. CO King spoke with their three children about the incident and the importance of firearms safety.

COs Jason King and Robert Slick checked two subjects canoeing on the Shiawassee River within the City of Owosso. The officers discovered that the canoe was not equipped with any personal floatation devices. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick attended Earth Day festivities at Constitution Hall in Lansing. The event was a success with many kids from the surrounding area in attendance. CO Slick set up a booth and spoke to the kids about what a Conservation Officer does and what they can do to help.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol with CO Jason King when they checked Shiawassee Town Dam for anglers. There were many anglers enjoying the nice weather. One angler was casting from a branch that stretched out over the river. CO Slick approached him and asked to see his fishing license. The individual stated he hadn't purchased a license this year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason King was conducting an area patrol on Allan Road in Hazelton Twp. During his patrol he encountered a side by side ORV being driven upon the roadway. Upon stopping the ORV, CO King also noticed that the occupants were not wearing their safety belts and did not have helmets on. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a fishing patrol at Milliken State Park in Detroit, CO Matthew Neterer observed an angler pull up a fish basket which appeared to contain a bass. CO Neterer approached the angler and asked if he was catching anything. The angler responded that he was not having any luck. CO Neterer then pulled up the fish basket which had a smallmouth bass in it. The angler stated that he was just keeping the bass in the basket so that he could get a photograph of the fish. The angler was issued a ticket for possessing a bass during the closed season.

COs Joshua Jackson and Isaac Tyson were patrolling several lakes in Branch County and encountered a vessel with five people, all fishing. Upon contact they discovered one angler kept a short largemouth bass. They also discovered the five anglers did not have the proper number of life vests on board. Enforcement action was taken for the out-of-season bass and improper number of life vests.

CO Isaac Tyson was patrolling a popular shore fishing location in Branch County when he noticed a man fishing off a dock. After observing him fish for some time, CO Tyson went to make contact. The man saw CO Tyson and quickly walked towards his residence. CO Tyson pulled into the driveway and walked to the back yard to contact the fisherman, but he was gone. CO Tyson then knocked on the door and when the man came out he immediately stated that he did not have a fishing license. CO Tyson thanked him for his honesty and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds observed subjects in two kayaks fishing along a shoreline in Hillsdale County. When contact was made with the subjects, the officer noticed several violations, including one of the anglers not having a PFD. The subject stated that he had forgotten his PFD. The angler was advised that he needed a PFD if he planned on continuing to fish. Verbal warnings were given on a few of the violations. Enforcement action was taken for failing to have a PFD.

CO Chris Reynolds was checking anglers on a local lake when several anglers were observed on the other side of the lake fishing. When contact was made, one of the anglers threw his fishing pole into the weeds and said he was just casting for one of the young children with the group. The subject was advised that he had been observed from the other side of the lake fishing for a while before contact was made. The subject then confessed to fishing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds observed an ORV driving on a public road in Hillsdale County. A stop was conducted on the ORV, with numerous violations observed. The officer advised the subject of all of the violations and explained the importance of wearing a helmet while operating an ORV. The subject said "I only live down the road." The officer gave verbal warnings on a few of the violations. Enforcement action was taken for operating an ORV without a helmet.

While on patrol in Branch County CO Isaac Tyson checked a boat with an expired registration. The boat owner stated that he had owned the boat for three years. A check of the boat's MC number revealed that the man had never registered the boat. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While checking anglers on the Detroit River, COs Dave Schaumburger and Dan Walzak checked a vessel with a subject fishing and his "fishing partner" reading a book. During the check it was found that the boat was lacking a throwable life preserver and also the registration certificate. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett was investigating an illegal dumping complaint in the Pte. Aux Peaux State Wildlife Area. While on foot patrol, a group of three anglers walked past to a nearby creek. CO Ennett continued to search for the trash, while also giving the trio a chance to set up. All three were actively fishing when CO Ennett approached them to check the two adult's licenses. The father of the young boy stated that he was "just casting" for his son, after he had already set the pole down and walked away from it. They were also about 20 feet apart, and the boy was handling his own rod just fine. When CO Ennett pointed out that he had watched them for several minutes, the father implied the son did not know how to fish. He did, in fact, ask the boy "you don't know how to fish, right?" The son answered in an offended tone that yes, he did know how to fish, and wagged his fishing rod as proof. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett assisted with the annual controlled burn at the Petersburg State Game Area. CO Ennett patrolled the location of parked state equipment and the burn sites. He also remained on scene for traffic control and general public encounters.

COs Mark Ennett and James Zellinger responded to a fishing with too many lines complaint at the Edison Fishing Pier in Monroe. There was a large crowd enjoying good weather and some fish being caught. However, the violation was not found and there were no tickets or warnings issued to anyone.

While conducting a marine patrol on Lake Erie in Monroe County, CO James Zellinger observed a vessel on the water with an expired watercraft registration. CO Zellinger contacted the operator of the vessel at a boat launch. The operator explained he thought the 2016 watercraft registration expired at the end of the year and was not aware it had expired on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Enforcement action was taken.

While participating in a group patrol, CO James Zellinger conducted a marine safety and fishing license check upon a vessel at a boat launch that had just returned from the water. The owner of the vessel failed to provide a type IV PFD and was in possession of an undersized walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Ennett, Raymond Gardner, Christopher Knights, David Schaumburger, Al Schwiderson, Brad Silorey and James Zellinger participated in a group patrol checking anglers in vessels returning to launches from the Detroit River. Citations were issued for over limits of walleye, undersize walleye, and several marine violations.

COs David Schaumburger, Christopher Knights and James Zellinger made contact with an operator of a vessel at a boat ramp in Detroit and asked if the operator had any fish. The angler stated that he had, "a northern." COs Schaumburger and Zellinger looked at the fish and identified the fish as a Muskellunge, not a Northern Pike. The operator stated that he was unable to tell the difference between a Muskellunge and a Northern Pike. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger was on his way home from a long patrol when he spotted an ORV operating on the roadway within the city limits of Detroit. The CO activated his emergency lights and the operator immediately pulled over and sank his head down



onto his handlebars. CO Schaumburger made contact with the operator and asked for identification and the operator was unable to produce any. After taking down his name and with the help of dispatch, CO Schaumburger was unable to confirm the identity of the individual. CO Schaumburger asked the operator if he was a United States citizen, to which he replied, "no." CO Schaumburger contacted Border Patrol to assist him and they were able to eventually identify the individual. Enforcement action was taken.

COs David Schaumburger and Brad Silorey conducted a marine patrol on the Detroit River to the north of Belle Isle, concentrating on enforcing the "Slow, No Wake" zone which includes the entire area of the river directly to the north of Belle Isle. Many contacts were made and most vessel operators were quite surprised to hear that there was such a zone. Marine citations were issued for not having the proper number of life preservers on board and for unregistered vessels.

COs David Schaumburger and Brad Silorey were checking vessels and anglers entering into marinas from the Detroit River with the assistance of Border Patrol. They contacted a group of four anglers and decided to question them on their trip as the COs were suspicious of a possible illegal charter operation. Investigation led to information that the Captain had approximately 25 walleye filleted at his residence. The COs followed up at the residence and located 50 walleye fillets in his possession. The Captain of the vessel was allowed to keep his daily possession limit of 10 walleye fillets and the rest were seized by the COs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger received a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject selling wild baby rabbits on social media, in Wayne County. The post had a phone number and a name and with the aid of dispatchers, CO Schaumburger was able to pinpoint an address for the subject. CO Schaumburger contacted the subject via text message that he was interested in buying one of the rabbits and set up a location to meet the subject. When a location and time was set, CO Schaumburger set up surveillance on the area to watch for the subject who stated he would be carrying the rabbit in a box. The CO viewed the subject coming into the area and quickly made contact with the subject so he would not attempt to run. Upon making contact, the subject was shocked that he had been texting a CO all day. One rabbit was seized at the location, and two more were located at the subject's residence. The three baby rabbits were taken to a local rehabilitator in order to be eventually released into the wild. The subject was notified he had committed two misdemeanor offenses, possessing wildlife without a rehabber's permit and offering to sell wildlife. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger completed an investigation of a deer being taken without a license. CO Schaumburger questioned the subject on the date and time of the kill and was able to produce a picture on his phone that showed the deer in question dead at 9:29 AM. CO Schaumburger asked what time the subject purchased the license, to which he replied, "I just cannot remember." CO Schaumburger told the subject that the DNR retail sales system computer showed him purchasing his deer license at 2:40 PM and that he had killed that deer without a hunting license. The subject replied,

"Sometimes I go hunting without my license, but I always eventually buy it." Charges are being sought with the Lake County prosecutor's office.

While on patrol in Oakland County, CO Christopher Knights received a complaint from dispatch stating a retired officer received a call and stated a woman on Facebook was advertising she was rehabbing wild animals. After CO Knights made contact with the complainant, she advised CO Knights of the address and Facebook page of the subject. CO Knights made contact with the subject and after permission to enter the home, CO Knights discovered a hawk she recently had picked up on the side of the road. CO Knights asked the woman how she found the hawk; she stated someone messaged her on Facebook because she has it advertised as a rehabber. CO Knights found no other wild animals in the residence. The woman did state she has rehabbed a lot in the past, and after checking her Facebook, she had brought in multiple animals, from raccoons to baby deer. CO Knights contacted a permitted wildlife rehabilitator and she came and took the hawk to her facility. The subject was shown the law that states the necessary documents and facilities to accommodate wild animals. Enforcement action was also taken.

While checking anglers at Milliken State Park, CO Jason Becker noticed a man catch a few perch and put them in a bucket. A license check revealed the angler had not purchased a license since 2014. The man also had seven outstanding warrants. CO John Sklba assisted CO Becker to address the violations present. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers along the Huron River in Proud Lake Recreation Area, CO Jason Becker watched two juveniles standing on the bank attempting to snag trout. CO Becker contacted the young men and asked if they had any luck. They stated that they caught a couple and had one trout on a stringer. CO Becker noticed that the young men were fishing with lures in a flies-only area. CO Becker had the juveniles release the trout and contacted the parents of both young men to address the violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker was patrolling the Pontiac Lake Recreation Area for late night fishing activity when he contacted two subjects heading out to bow fish and one subject to go shore fishing. A license check revealed that one subject had not purchased a fishing license. While talking to him, CO Becker could smell marijuana. The angler was also in possession of marijuana and a glass pipe. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Justin Muehlhauser and Jeremy Beavers conducted Flint River patrols for much of the week. The COs decided to take the boat out and conduct checks on Mott Lake. While patrolling the lake, CO Muehlhauser spotted a boat with two men fishing using artificial bait. Mott Lake is part of the Flint River system and the use of artificial bait is prohibited during the closed walleye season. The men had 6 rods equipped with an assortment of artificial lures. CO Muehlhauser informed the men of the gear restrictions on the Flint River and the men stated that they didn't know about it. CO Muehlhauser pointed out that the gear restrictions are printed every year in the Michigan Fishing

Guide and it is their responsibility to know the regulations that are in effect on the body of water that they are fishing. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Justin Muehlhauser and Jeremy Beavers were watching anglers fish at the Holloway Dam when CO Muehlhauser observed a man on the north side of the dam catch a walleye and put it in his bucket. CO Muehlhauser continued to watch the man. A few casts later, the man caught a second walleye and dropped it in his bucket. CO Muehlhauser decided to check the angler. CO Muehlhauser approached and asked to see his fishing license. The man produced a 2016 fishing license. CO Muehlhauser asked the man what he had caught. The angler explained that he wasn't sure and a couple of guys that just passed by said they were walleye. CO Muehlhauser examined the fish and discovered the angler had in possession a sucker and 3 small walleye ranging from 11"- 12". When CO Muehlhauser explained that the walleye season was closed the angler said that he had no idea. He said that he just bought his license and nobody told him that walleye season was closed. CO Muehlhauser asked if he reviewed the 2016-2017 fishing guide. The man stated that they didn't give him one when he bought his license. CO Muehlhauser explained that the walleye season was closed and the reasons behind the closure. The man insisted that he didn't know anything and that signs should be posted so people know what they can and can't keep. CO Muehlhauser provided the man a 2016-2017 fishing guide and enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers along the Flint River, CO Justin Muehlhauser came across a few anglers at Atwood Stadium. CO Muehlhauser observed the anglers for several minutes before making contact. As CO Muehlhauser approached, he observed a man reel in his line and snap his lure off. CO Muehlhauser immediately asked what he had removed from his line. The man pulled a legal set-up from his pocket and said he had gotten snagged and he was fixing his line. CO Muehlhauser informed the man that he had been watching and seen him rip the artificial lure from his line. CO Muehlhauser asked again what he was using. Knowing he had been caught, the man replied "my crank bait." The angler explained that he knew about the Flint River gear restrictions but just wanted to come fish for a little bit. After further investigation it was discovered that the angler was wanted on several warrants. Enforcement action was taken and the angler was lodged in the county jail for the outstanding warrants.

COs Justin Muehlhauser and Pete Purdy checked fisherman at Milliken State Park while working Belle Isle. CO Muehlhauser checked an angler who stated that he didn't need a license because he had a VA card. CO Muehlhauser informed the angler that he is still required to have a valid Michigan fishing license. The angler insisted that he was told otherwise. CO Muehlhauser noticed that the angler had his previous two years fishing licenses stuck to his tackle box. CO Muehlhauser asked why he bought the previous licenses if he didn't have to. He said, "I always buy my fishing license." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County when he spotted a small watercraft utilizing a motor, but did not display any registration numbers. After the subject returned

to the shore CO Griffin informed him that his motorized watercraft must be registered in order for it to be operated on Michigan waters. Furthermore, while doing a marine check, CO Griffin discovered that the subject did not have any personal flotation devices on board. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Genesee County, CO Jeremy Beavers began checking anglers at Mott Lake. During one check, CO Beavers made contact with a subject near the Blue Gill Boat Launch. The subject was fishing from a small pond near the launch. CO Beavers made contact and asked the subject for his fishing license. The subject told CO Beavers the only license he has was expired. CO Beavers checked the angler's information and confirmed that he did not have a current fishing license. The subject was cited for fishing without a license. CO Beavers then checked anglers fishing on Mott Lake along Branch Road. CO Beavers made contact with an additional two people who were fishing without licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Genesee County, CO Jeremy Beavers checked anglers fishing along the Shiawassee River in Linden. While checking anglers, CO Beavers made contact with a subject who was fishing at the bottom side of the dam. CO Beavers asked the subject for his fishing license and the subject stated that he did not have it with him and left it at home. CO Beavers asked the subject if he did in fact have one and the subject stated he did. After obtaining the subjects personal information CO Beavers checked his purchase history, discovering the subject has not purchased a fishing license since 2013. Enforcement action was taken.

In Genesee County, CO Jeremy Beavers received a complaint that a hunter shot a turkey from a house over bait. The complaint stated that there was bird seed all over the place that was used to lure the turkey. CO Beavers went to the location in order to make contact with the suspect but no one was present. CO Beavers found evidence that a turkey was shot, likely from the house. CO Beavers did not find any evidence of bird seed or any other bait that could have been used to lure to the turkey. After talking to several people in the area CO Beavers learned that the subject who shot the turkey does not live at the residence. Using the information obtained, CO Beavers was eventually able to identify the subject responsible for shooting the turkey. CO Beavers made contact with the suspect at his residence and discovered he did have a turkey license that was purchased over the internet. CO Beavers asked to see the turkey and immediately noticed that the tag was not validated. The suspect then stated that he had yet to receive his kill tag through the mail. CO Beavers explained to the suspect that he must first receive his kill tag before he can legally hunt. CO Beavers went on to say that the guide clearly states the kill tag must be immediately validated and securely attached to the leg. CO Beavers informed the suspect that what he did was illegal and would be pursuing charges of illegally taking a turkey.

CO Brad Silorey received a report all poaching complaint in Macomb County of a seagull shot with a pellet gun. CO Silorey responded to the location of the incident after speaking with the complainant. The complainant stated that her neighbor is always shooting at the seagulls and this time he had shot one in the head and it was still alive.

CO Silorey arrived on scene and attempted to make contact with the subject, however the subject had already left the residence. CO Silorey gathered information from the complainant and took the injured bird with him. The seagull died of its injuries shortly after leaving the complainant's residence. The investigation continues, and charges will be sought on the subject for taking a protected species.

COs Brad Silorey and Dave Schaumburger were on marine patrol in the Detroit River when they observed a large vessel not displaying a registration or decal. During the stop, the captain stated that he was a federally documented vessel. CO Schaumburger directed the captain to dock his vessel at the Detroit Yacht Club so they could discuss the violation further. The subject stated that he has owned the vessel for four years and has never registered it in Michigan. COs Silorey and Schaumburger explained to the subject that he was still required to register his vessel in Michigan and display a registration decal. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a large group patrol along the Detroit River, CO Brad Silorey contacted a vessel returning from fishing. The anglers stated that they were able to catch a four-person limit of walleye and that it was a good day. After requesting to see the anglers' fishing licenses, one angler stated he never purchased one. The subject's fish were seized and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Clinton River shoreline, CO Silorey contacted a group of anglers. The anglers stated that they had only caught one fish all day. When CO Silorey asked the anglers what kind of fish, they stated a northern pike. CO Silorey requested to see the fish, which was wrapped up in a garbage bag inside the back of the angler's vehicle. CO Silorey informed the subjects that it was the closed season for northern pike in this area. The fish was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach was patrolling the Black River when he came across a pair of anglers fishing from the bank. CO Kovach stopped to talk to the duo and noticed one of the subjects started walking away from the fishing poles. Upon asking the pair of anglers how their fishing had been, the one angler stated he was not fishing. CO Kovach quickly pointed out that he saw the man holding a pole when he approached. The angler then admitted he was fishing and said he had not yet bought a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was on foot patrol checking anglers at an access site on Lake St. Clair. After making multiple checks, CO Silorey observed several anglers that began to pack up when they noticed him. CO Silorey made contact with them and requested to see the anglers' fishing licenses. It was found that no one had purchased one for this year. CO Silorey had dispatch run the subject's files through LEIN. It was found that one subject had multiple warrants for his arrest out of northern Michigan for contempt of

court and child neglect. After confirming the warrants, CO Silorey placed the subject under arrest and transported him to Macomb County Jail.

CO Brad Silorey was checking shore anglers and anglers fishing by boat in a marina off of Lake St. Clair. One angler in a boat had a full bucket of pumpkinseed sunfish and stated that he was just about done fishing. After a quick count of the fish, CO Silorey notified the angler that he was over the 25 fish limit by three fish. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey assisted a motorist that had crashed into a ditch due to a blown-out tire. After gathering the subject's information and contacting the Macomb County Sheriff's Office, it was found that there had been a BOL put out for the driver earlier in the day for driving through the city hitting curbs. A Macomb County Sheriff's Deputy arrived on scene and eventually arrested the subject for operating on a suspended license and the vehicle was impounded.

COs Ben Lasher and Brad Silorey contacted two anglers on Lake St. Clair while on marine patrol, one of the anglers had an arrest warrant for failing to appear in a Detroit Area District Court. Officers were advised by the Detroit Police Department to advise and release the subject.

COs Ken Kovach, Matt Zultak, and Acting Sgt. Kris Kiel patrolled the waters of Macomb County as part of a Homeland Security patrol. Approximately 30 vessels were checked, with one citation being issued and four warnings for marine and fishing violations.

While patrolling Twin Lake in the Lapeer State Game Area, CO Matthew Zultak located subjects fishing from and later rowing a small boat to shore. Contact was made and the subjects stated they had been out testing the flotation of the boat. CO Zultak located three fishing poles in the boat. The subjects then stated that they had been out fishing, but did not have fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the roads surrounding a small lake in Lapeer County, CO Matthew Zultak came across a "Bad Boy Buggie" style ORV parked on the side of the road. The ORV did not have an ORV sticker attached. The subject standing next to the ORV was about to go fishing in the small river that empties into the lake. CO Zultak discovered the subject did not have a current fishing license either. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Lapeer State Game Area, CO Matthew Zultak located piles of household garbage. CO Zultak dug through the garbage and was able to locate a name. The subject was located at his residence and interviewed. Enforcement action was taken.

## **BELLE ISLE**

COs Peter Purdy and Chuck Towns responded to a 911 call of a thirteen year old girl missing on Belle Isle. The girl was on a field trip and was missing when the group prepared to leave. The girl was located safe, an hour later. She had walked away from the group and failed to notify anyone.

COs Jason Becker and John Sklba were patrolling Belle Isle and noticed two men fishing from a pier that was closed due to unsafe conditions. The COs contacted the men to suggest other fishing areas and noticed they had two northern pike in a cooler. Both of the pike were less than the 24 inch minimum length. The men were also in possession of gobies in their minnow bucket. The officers informed them of the minimum size limits and the prohibited species in the fishing guide that one man had in a pocket. The two men also were drinking alcohol on the island. Enforcement action was taken.

While working on Belle Isle COs Justin Muehlhauser and Matthew Neterer noticed a young man catching snakes near the light house. CO Neterer recognized the man from a previous contact and remembered that he did not have a fishing license. The COs decided to make contact with the subject. While CO Neterer checked for his fishing license, CO Muehlhauser looked in his bucket. CO Muehlhauser noticed a small snapping turtle. When the COs asked where he got the turtle, he replied that he had bought it from a reptile expo in Taylor. The young man couldn't say who he had bought it from but said that he paid about 10-15 dollars for it. CO Muehlhauser informed him that there were some problems with his story. The COs believed that the turtle was caught in the park. They educated the subject on the rules and regulations pertaining to reptiles and amphibians. The turtle was released without harm.

While working Belle Isle CO Greg Patten took a call from a subject that had found a bag containing a shotgun with the barrel and stock sawed off. The caller found it at the edge of the Detroit River. The firearm was sent in to forensics and further investigation will continue.